

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A lancing device comprising:
 - (a) a lancet, said lancet having a sharpened tip, and
 - (b) a torsion spring coupled to said lancet, said torsion spring comprising first and second closed and concentric rings which are connected by a spring arm.
2. (original) The lancing device of claim 1 wherein the spring arm of said torsion spring is transformable between an energized state and a de-energized state.
3. (original) The lancing device of claim 2 wherein the spring arm of said torsion spring is transformable between its energized and de-energized states through the rotation of one of said first and second rings relative to the other of said first and second rings.
4. (original) The lancing device of claim 3 further comprising a housing shaped to define an interior cavity and an opening in communication with said interior cavity.
5. (original) The lancing device of claim 4 wherein said lancet is adapted for movement between a retracted position in which the sharpened tip of said lancet is positioned within the interior cavity of said housing and an extended position in which the sharpened tip of said lancet is positioned outside of the interior cavity of said housing.
6. (original) The lancing device of claim 5 wherein energy stored within the spring arm of said torsion spring is used to displace said lancet between its retracted and extended positions.

7. (currently amended) A lancing device comprising:

- (a) a lancet, said lancet having a sharpened tip, and
- (b) a torsion spring coupled to said lancet said torsion spring comprising,
 - (i) ~~an a closed~~ inner ring,
 - (ii) a closed middle ring concentrically configured around said inner ring,
 - (iii) ~~an a closed~~ outer ring concentrically configured around said middle ring,
 - (iv) a first spring arm connecting said middle ring to said outer ring, and
 - (v) a second spring arm connecting said inner ring to said middle ring.

8. (original) The lancing device of claim 7 wherein said first spring arm extends from said middle ring to said outer ring along an arcuate path.

9. (original) The lancing device of claim 8 wherein said second spring arm extends from said inner ring to said middle ring along an arcuate path.

10. (original) The lancing device of claim 9 wherein said second spring arm extends from said inner ring to said middle ring in the opposite direction in which said first spring arm extends from said middle ring to said outer ring.

11. (original) The lancing device of claim 7 wherein each of said first and second spring arms is independently transformable between an energized state and a de-energized state.

12. (original) The lancing device of claim 11 further comprising a housing shaped to define an interior cavity and an opening in communication with said interior cavity.

13. (original) The lancing device of claim 12 wherein said lancet is adapted for movement between a retracted position in which the sharpened tip of said lancet is positioned within the interior cavity of said housing and an extended position in which the sharpened tip of said lancet is positioned outside of the interior cavity of said housing.

14. (original) The lancing device of claim 13 wherein said lancet is disposed in its retracted position when each of said first and second spring arms is in its de-energized state.

15. (original) The lancing device of claim 14 wherein, with said second spring arm maintained in its energized state, transformation of said first spring arm from its energized state to its de-energized state serves to drive said lancet from its retracted position to its extended position.

16. (original) The lancing device of claim 15 wherein, with said first spring arm maintained in its de-energized state, transformation of said second spring arm from its energized state to its de-energized state serves to drive said lancet from its extended position to its retracted position.

17. (original) The lancing device of claim 7 wherein the inner ring of said torsion spring is fixedly coupled to said housing.

18. (original) The lancing device of claim 17 further comprising:

- (a) a lancet holder for holding said lancet, said lancet holder being fixedly coupled to the outer ring of said torsion spring, and
- (b) a latch for selectively engaging said lancet holder.

19. (original) The lancing device of claim 18 further comprising:

- (a) a spring holder fixedly coupled to the middle ring of said torsion spring, and
- (b) a ratchet for selectively engaging said spring holder.

20. (original) The lancing device of claim 19 further comprising a mechanism fixedly coupled to said spring holder for selectively contacting said latch.

21-37. (canceled)